

Remarks

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 through 20 have been cancelled and new claims 21 through 38 have been added to better define what Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants urge that new claims 21 through 38 are fully supported by the specification as filed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103

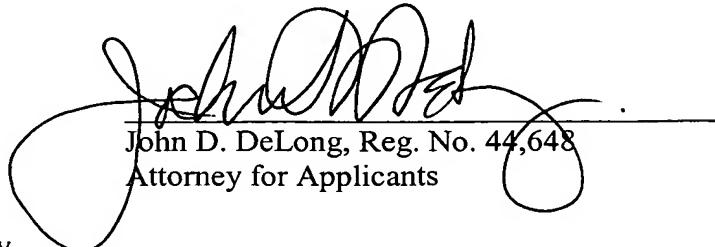
Applicants urge that new claims 21 through 38 are fully patentable over the cited art. None of the cited art, Bonko '814 (US 5,337,814), Dunnom (US 3,738,948), Lee (US 3,660,340), Bonko '282 (US 6,062,282), Barton (US 3,554,857), or Schwarze (US 3,842,111) alone or in combination teach or make obvious the newly added claims.

In particular, none of the cited art is directed to a method of curing a pneumatic agricultural or industrial tires at all, let alone to a method as recited in the claims. Only by the presently claimed curing method is it known to improve the adhesion of polyester cords to a rubber composition in a tire component of a pneumatic agricultural or industrial tire. By contrast, and as noted in the present specification, agricultural and industrial tires characteristically feature large, thick tread lugs. Cure of these tires requires long, high temperature cycles to ensure complete cure of the thickest rubber components. While the high temperature, long duration cures are necessary to cure the thicker components, the extreme conditions may have deleterious effects on other, thinner components of the tire. Such is the case with the tire carcass, the belts and other inserts of textile cords where the high cure temperatures may interfere with the development of good adhesion between the cord and the rubber coat. In particular, adhesion between polyester cords and rubber in agricultural or industrial tires is often poor at best. Rubber compositions to date used in agricultural or industrial tires often contribute to poor adhesion between the cords and rubber.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants urge that the claims are fully patentable over the cited art and respectfully request allowance of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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